



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/49/357/Add.1
20 September 1994
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC/ENGLISH/
SPANISH

Forty-ninth session
Item 22 of the provisional agenda*

ASSISTANCE IN MINE CLEARANCE

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION	1 - 2	3
II. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM MEMBER STATES		3
Afghanistan		3
Bolivia		10
Bulgaria		10
Egypt		12
Finland		12
Greece		14
Iraq		18
Israel		18
Jordan		19

* A/49/150.

CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Page</u>
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	25
Mexico	28
Nicaragua	29
Norway	39
Slovenia	40
Sri Lanka	41
Sweden	41
Ukraine	42
United Arab Emirates	43
III. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM BODIES WITH OBSERVER STATUS WITH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY	44
Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean	44
Council of Europe	44
International Committee of the Red Cross	44
League of Arab States	45
Organization of American States	46

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to the request contained in resolution 48/7, of 19 October 1993, the Secretary-General, by a note verbale dated 23 March 1994, invited Member States and bodies with observer status with the General Assembly to transmit to him for inclusion in the report the information requested in paragraph 6 of the resolution.
2. The present addendum reproduces the replies received as at 15 August 1994. Further replies will be included in further addenda to the present report.

II. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM MEMBER STATES

AFGHANISTAN

[Original: English]

[6 June 1994]

1. The relevant authorities of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, pursuant to resolution 48/7 of 19 October 1993, entitled "Assistance in mine clearance", submit the following as their views as well as proposals concerning the following:

(a) The problems caused by the increasing presence of mines and other unexploded devices resulting from armed conflicts;

(b) The manner in which the United Nations contribution to the solution of problems relating to mine clearance could be strengthened.

2. This response is submitted with reference to the particular problems in Afghanistan, namely, the presence of between 10 and 30 million land-mines planted in Afghan soil during the 14 years of the armed aggression of the former Soviet Union Red Army, as well as by the Afghan communist regime.

The problems caused by the increasing presence of mines and other unexploded devices resulting from armed conflicts

3. In his report on the work of the Organization in September 1993, the Secretary-General of the United Nations said: "Of all the tasks involved in setting a nation on a new road to peace and prosperity, perhaps none has the immediate urgency of mine clearance ... no attempt to restore a sense of community and security can succeed without effective land-mine removal".

4. According to the United Nations Focus (DPI-October 1993-13M), among the 10 war-stricken countries and territories, Afghanistan is the most affected country in the world as far as the problem of land-mines is concerned.

/...

5. Surely the gravity and cruelty of the threat posed to Afghan life as a result of the existence of millions of land-mines and other unexploded ordnance in the Afghan soil cannot be overemphasized. The problem has seriously jeopardized all efforts towards not only the reconstruction, rehabilitation and repatriation of refugees, but, above all, the restoration of peace and normalcy and of the basic services of human need. Here are some of the ramifications of land-mines on different phases of Afghan life.

1. Economic consequences

Impact on agriculture

6. Afghanistan is a predominantly agricultural country. Eighty per cent of the population of Afghanistan are engaged in agriculture. Before the former Soviet Union's aggression, agriculture used to contribute about 58 per cent of the national income and provided employment to 70 per cent of all manpower. It counted for over 60 per cent of exports and also provided raw material for local industry.

7. Pre-Soviet invasion statistics show that in 1977 Afghanistan had 309 million hectares of land under cultivation and produced 7.7 million tons of grain, almost reaching the level of self-sufficiency, only importing 2,500 tons of grain, mainly as improved cultivation seeds.

8. As a result of the 14 years of war and specifically because of three main factors, namely, intensity of Soviet bombardment on the villages, engagement of farmers in the jihad and the nation-wide armed liberation struggle, and, more importantly, the implantation of millions of land-mines in agricultural lands, the agricultural production dropped by 55 per cent.

9. According to the Mine-Clearance Planning Agency, involved in the survey of minefields in support of the United Nations Mine Clearance Programme since 1990, covering 339 districts of 29 provinces, of which 162 districts were reported to have acute mine problems, there are 595 minefields located on agricultural lands, constituting an area of 78,343,231 square miles, which represents only 20.2 per cent of the total mined area.

10. One of the ramifications and impacts of land-mines is the disability of more than one million Afghans who could otherwise have played their role in the reconstruction of their homeland. This large number of Afghan citizens are permanently taken out of the work force of Afghan society.

Impact on irrigation systems

11. As explained in the report of the National Survey of the Land-Mine Situation in Afghanistan (Progress and present situation of the United Nations Mine-Clearance Programme for Afghanistan, vol. I, 1993, part III, p. 17), irrigation canals in the 29 provinces were mined, mainly in order to limit as much as possible the resources for agriculture, thus depopulating areas and preventing Mujahidin from receiving assistance from the local population.

/...

12. On the other hand, those who did not choose to leave, in the light of the bitter experience of their relatives or friends who had been killed or had lost their limbs while working on irrigation and water canals, stayed away from irrigation canals. Consequently, many irrigation canals, having not been properly maintained, were filled with debris, leaving hundreds of thousands of hectares of land arid. This represents another destructive potential of land-mines in disabling irrigation systems, which requires immediate international attention.

Impact on roads

13. The economic infrastructure of Afghanistan, as a land-locked and, in the meantime, war-stricken least developed country among the developing countries, depends heavily on transit roads. Roads are considered vital to the improvement of the economy of Afghanistan, where the roads were already in bad condition. According to the Mine-Clearance Planning Agency an area of 19,972,340 square miles of road was declared potentially mined, of which only 5.4 million square miles were announced clear.

14. During the war, the Soviet regime, on one side, and, in some cases, the Mujahidin on the other, were heavily concentrating on mining the roads and bridges, thus stopping the military machinery from reaching the villages. As a result of the presence of the mines, some of the roads became completely inaccessible.

15. The Mujahidin were using mainly anti-vehicle mines.

16. The transport sector was very seriously damaged as a result of the mines implanted on roads, stopping the flow of food, commodities and products between towns and villages.

17. According to available statistics, 2,033.9 kilometres of roads are to be rebuilt and 676 kilometres repaired. These roads were destroyed mainly as a result of land-mines, bombardment and, in the meantime, as a consequence of war and fear of land-mines that left the roads and bridges without maintenance.

Impact on livestock

18. Another bitter consequence of this destructive man-made phenomenon is the killing of thousands of animals, such as cows, donkeys, mules, camels, sheep and goats, by land-mines, as explained in part II of the 1993 annual report of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan.

19. Land-mines also caused the annihilation of thousands of livestock because of the unavailability of grazing land, which is again the result of the implantation of land-mines on these types of land. According to the Mine-Clearance Planning Agency, an area of 11,727,536 square miles was declared potentially mined and, in the last two years of operation, only close to 35 per cent of the area was announced cleared.

2. Social and psychological consequences

20. Although statistics available in the Islamic State of Afghanistan on the number of victims of land-mines during the 14 years of war indicate a high number of casualties, in preparation of this response, however, it was preferred to rely upon accounts, figures and statistics given in official reports of the United Nations.

21. Paragraph 53 of the report of Mr. Felix Ermacora, Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session (A/48/584, dated 16 November 1993) states "Mine-blast injuries in Afghanistan continue to be very numerous. The Special Rapporteur was informed that some 1 million persons had lost limbs during the past 14 years, approximately 300,000 of whom had lost both limbs". Accordingly, Mr. Ermacora, in paragraph 134 of his report, recommended that "every effort should be made to broaden and accelerate the process of mine clearing".

22. To point out just one simple fact about the magnitude of the spectre of land-mines in Afghanistan, an eyewitness who recently returned from Kandahar in Afghanistan recounted that three months ago in Shari-i Naw of Kandahar two children who repatriated to their homeland were brutally blown up by the mines that were planted inside their homes years ago. So, the presence of mines not only threatens the agricultural infrastructure of the traditional productive economic sector of the country, but also endangers human life even in many residential areas.

23. This problem is so grave in some provinces and areas that perhaps the present generation and their sons and daughters, as well as the next generation, cannot walk in many areas of their homeland free from the deadly fear of being killed or losing their limbs. This situation, as well as the over 1 million disabled due to the land-mines laid during the war has psychologically battered the Afghan nation, the effects of which damage will continue for many decades to come.

24. It is hoped that the world community understands the pain and agony of the thousands of parents who every moment of their life endure deep suffering by looking at their very young children with no limbs as burdens on future society.

25. This deadly and inhuman phenomenon will create many other social and economic problems in the future.

3. Impact on the repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons

26. As a result of the political changes in the country, namely, the collapse of the communist regime and the establishment of the Islamic State on 27 April 1992, about 1.5 million Afghan refugees repatriated from Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

/...

27. However, land-mines greeted the returnees as they were heading to their villages. Many returnees were killed and lost their limbs. Consequently, the repatriation of refugees suffered a serious set-back.

28. As stated in the report of the Secretary-General under agenda item 41 (A/48/323, dated 24 September 1993, and Add.1), the presence of land-mines is one of the greatest obstacles to the successful return of the refugees. Paragraph 14 states:

"Statistics available from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) hospitals for the war-wounded show a marked and tragic increase in mine injuries and indicate that the overwhelming majority of the Afghans brought into their hospitals as a result of such injuries were returnees. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that an increasing proportion of those refugees who had indicated their willingness to return from neighbouring countries is reluctant to do so because it is known that the areas to which they wish to return are mined."

29. ICRC statistics also show that an alarming increase in mine casualties was noted among recently returned refugees and displaced persons. According to the ICRC accounts, almost 1,500 mine casualties were treated in a short period of time at their hospitals in Kabul, Peshawar and Quetta, of whom about 30 per cent were children.

The manner in which the United Nations contribution to
the solution of problems relating to mine clearance
could be strengthened

30. Although the question is of a general nature, the response to the above aspect of the land-mine problem is given in the form of recommendations, with particular reference to ways and means of solving the problem in Afghanistan in the light of the experiences gained over the last two years.

31. It begins by the following quotation (United Nations Secretary-General, Consolidated Appeal for Emergency Humanitarian Assistance for Afghanistan, June-December 1992):

"Mines and unexploded bombs are the most cruel and indiscriminate obstacle to a return to normal life in Afghanistan. Mines which were laid in villages, roads, agricultural land and irrigation systems will remain a hazard in many parts of the country for years to come."

32. The Secretary-General very rightly identified land-mines and unexploded bombs as the most cruel and indiscriminate obstacle to a return of normal life in Afghanistan.

33. Afghanistan played a key role in the collapse of international communism, the end of the cold war and of world bipolarity, as well as in the creation of an international atmosphere more favourable to a world with much less fear of nuclear confrontation. The price the Afghan people paid for this humane and historic mission was a heavy one: 1.7 million killed, more than 1 million

/...

disabled, the country's economic infrastructure destroyed and more than 10 million land-mines still on Afghan soil.

34. The Afghan nation certainly deserves better than what the international community has done for it so far. One of the immediate actions the world community could take in order to assist the victimized Afghan nation is to intensify efforts and increase financial and technical assistance on mine clearing in Afghanistan. The United Nations and the international community are committed to the reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan by unanimously adopting resolution 48/208 of 21 December 1993. Removal of land-mines is the first step towards the realization of that objective.

Proposals

35. Efforts to be taken at the United Nations and the international level:

(a) The General Assembly should give priority of consideration at the plenary each year to the item on land-mines;

(b) An international scientific committee on land-mines should be established under the Department of Humanitarian Affairs with a view to:

- (i) Studying on a continuous basis the problems of land-mines in war-stricken countries;
- (ii) Serve as a coordinating body for all the activities on national, subregional, regional and by non-governmental organizations in the field of mine-awareness, training, survey and mine clearance;
- (iii) Initiate tripartite agreements between the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, non-governmental organizations and Governments concerned, thus ensuring successful mine clearance, awareness and training projects and programmes;

(c) The General Assembly should draft an international convention banning the production and sale of land-mines and, as a first step, put a moratorium on the production and sale of such weapons;

(d) A global conference should be held in 1995 on the problem of land-mines, with a view to drafting and adopting an international strategy for mine clearance, as well as alleviating the disastrous consequences of land-mines in war-stricken countries;

(e) 1995-2005 should be declared an international decade against land-mines;

(f) An international voluntary fund should be established under the Department of Humanitarian Affairs to make available funds and resources for strengthening de-mining programmes in war-stricken developing countries.

/...

36. Efforts to be taken in cooperation and partnership with the United Nations at the national level. As stated above, owing to the particular and severe problem of land-mines with which Afghanistan is faced, the following specific proposals are submitted:

(a) The Secretary-General would be requested to make a fresh appeal to the donor countries to provide resources to meet a \$20 million annual budget for mine clearance in Afghanistan.

It is reassuring that the United Nations activities in Cambodia in the area of mine clearance have been extensive. The establishing of a trust fund for Cambodia by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), namely, the UNDP trust fund for capacity-building in de-mining operations for Cambodia, which was signed on 13 November 1993 by Mr. James Gustave Speth, Administrator, UNDP, in which UNDP will help raise \$10 million a year for the coming two years.

Under the auspices of UNDP, interested Governments have been approached by means of a letter dated 17 November 1993, from Mr. Speth, and Mr. Jan Eliasson, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, to contribute to the fund, as well as 30 international advisory personnel. To date, \$6 million has been raised for the trust fund, according to the UNDP Update (vol. 7, No. 5, 14 March 1994).

Since the situation of land-mines in Afghanistan is the most critical compared to all victim countries, it would be crucial that the United Nations should urgently study the possibility of establishing a trust fund for de-mining purposes for Afghanistan in the same line and concept as the one for Cambodia contained in the terms of reference of the UNDP trust fund for capacity-building in de-mining operations for Cambodia of 13 November 1993.

(b) The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance should intensify efforts towards further involvement of the local Afghan population who are more familiar with the environment. Such an extensive involvement would contribute positively to the following:

- (i) Create jobs and income for the local population who, as a legacy of 14 years of war, have no other occupation than to carry arms;
- (ii) The active and practical participation of the local population in mine clearance would psychologically relieve and assure the villagers that the land-mines would no longer be a danger to their safety and security. It would, in the meantime, boost agricultural activities and production;
- (iii) Ensure a more speedy achievement of the de-mining objective.

(c) There seems to be a sense of urgency needed in the de-mining process in Afghanistan. The process is not advancing as fast as it should, mainly as a result of the lack of adequate financial resources to support the de-mining programmes. Donor countries and institutions seem to be less enthusiastic in contributing cash to the programme.

To avoid interruption of de-mining, it would be advisable that the United Nations undertake a specific programme of grain-for-de-mining. The donor and other countries would be requested to support the de-mining programmes of the United Nations Office in Afghanistan by contributing grain to the Office, delivered to Peshawar, Pakistan, where the Office would transfer the grain shipments to the priority mine-affected areas inside Afghanistan. The Office will decide on the advisability of using either cash or grain on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the availability of budget and grain.

BOLIVIA

[Original: Spanish]

[10 June 1994]

1. The Governments of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, parties to the Cartagena Agreement, in consonance with their general interest in disarmament matters, as evidenced by the international and regional instruments to which we are parties and the Galapagos (18 December 1989) and Cartagena (4 December 1991) presidential Declarations in the context of the Andean Group, express their satisfaction at the importance accorded by the General Assembly, in adopting its resolution 48/7, to the serious problems caused by the presence of mines laid in various regions and to the need to strengthen and improve coordination of the activities being undertaken by the international community, in particular through the United Nations system, for their removal.
2. The countries parties to the Cartagena Agreement are concerned at the seriousness of the problem of mines, the proliferation and indiscriminate effect of which impede development. The consequences, now becoming apparent, of the problem of mines, detailed in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "An agenda for development" (A/48/935), merit the attention and require the commitment of the international community as a whole if they are to be overcome.
3. In connection with the possibility referred to in paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 48/7 of establishing a voluntary trust fund to finance programmes relating to mine clearance, the view of the countries parties to the Cartagena Agreement is that such a fund should be established with contributions from the mine-exporting countries and voluntary contributions by Member States.

BULGARIA

[Original: English]

[10 June 1994]

1. The Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (Inhumane Weapons Convention) regulates the use of land-mines, booby traps and other devices in international armed conflicts and during de-mining operations, once hostilities have ended. Breaches of those provisions

/...

have severe consequences, as land-mines and other unexploded devices remain extremely dangerous for a very long period of time, if left in the battlefield after the termination of an armed conflict. Such negative effects have been witnessed in a number of situations around the world, especially because the majority of armed conflicts in the last few years have been of non-international character, a trend that increases the proliferation and the indiscriminate use of land-mines.

2. Among the most common negative consequences of the indiscriminate use of land-mines are the following:

(a) The victims are mainly women, children and farmers, rather than combatants;

(b) In a number of countries, there are inadequate sources of medical experience and equipment when it comes to the treatment of a large number of land-mine victims, which leads to a greater loss of life;

(c) Because of the precision and longer periods of time involved in the surgical treatment of land-mine wounds, a vast stock of blood containers and a blood transfusion network are necessary, another scarcity in many countries;

(d) The rehabilitation process requires expertise and sufficient supplies of artificial limbs;

(e) The typical massive and indiscriminate use of land-mines makes whole regions impossible to live in, to develop farming or industry in, thus causing economic disasters;

(f) Considerable refugee movements, both within and outside a nation's territory, further aggravate the economic and social situation.

3. In order to avoid or minimize those negative effects, the de-mining activities should be properly organized. De-mining is a complex process and its success depends on the strict observance of the provisions of Protocol II of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects on the exchange of all information concerning the location of minefields, mines and booby traps in the territory of the adverse party. Exchange of information regarding the technical composition of the mines laid is another requirement for successful de-mining. These provisions and requirements are often neglected, especially in internal armed conflicts. In other cases, there can be loss of records and documentation owing to combat conditions. In cases of use of remotely delivered mines, it is possible to indicate the area of the minefield, but not always its exact boundaries or the location of the mines involved. All this makes de-mining a rather costly operation, especially when the international voluntary fund is to be donated by States, as well as international humanitarian governmental and non-governmental organizations. Such a fund could be utilized, *inter alia*, to finance the rehabilitation needs of mine victims, as well as for de-mining activities, the organization of international supply of military, medical and other specialists, for training facilities for de-mining engineers and medical crews, and so on.

/...

4. The Government of Bulgaria is in the process of elaborating a coherent and long-term policy concerning the international aspects of the mine problem world wide.

EGYPT

[Original: Arabic]

[29 June 1994]

1. There are in Egyptian territory 22.7 million mines, scattered over an area of 236,469 hectares in the Western Desert and Sinai, that need to be cleared. These mines constitute an obstacle to economic development projects and to movement for purposes of tourism inside Egypt.

2. The United Nations can contribute to the solution of the problem in the following ways:

(a) Training of officers and non-commissioned officers from the Egyptian Army in countries that have capacities and expertise in mine clearance;

(b) Provision without charge of up-to-date information on mine-clearance operations;

(c) Provision of 170 million Egyptian pounds and \$142 million for the implementation of the plan for mine clearance in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

FINLAND

[Original: English]

[19 July 1994]

1. Finland agrees with the point raised in the reply by the European Union, namely, that a distinction needs to be made between the humanitarian assistance/post-conflict peace-building on the one hand and the preventive/disarmament aspect on the other. It should, however, be noted that these aspects do not fully exclude each other.

2. The latter aspect, that is, the disarmament aspect, should also be emphasized when considering the implementation of resolution 48/7. In that respect, it should be noted the work initiated for the forthcoming Review Conference of the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects.

3. The focus of the review of this Convention is agreed by the States Parties to be on the preparation of concrete proposals for the amendments to Protocol II of the Convention, that is, the so-called mine protocol ("Protocol II on

/...

Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices").

4. According to the States parties, the purpose of the work is, first of all, to strengthen restrictions on the use of anti-personnel mines and, in particular, those without self-neutralizing or self-destruction mechanisms. Likewise, the verification system for the provisions of the Protocol is supposed to be considered and opportunities to be studied for broadening the scope of the Protocol to cover armed conflicts that are not of an international character, that is, the internal conflicts. Also, the questions closely linked to the issue of mine clearance, for example, those of recording of all the mines/ minefields and rendering of all the information of their location for the mine clearers after hostilities, should be dealt with in that connection.

5. Finland, as one of the States parties of the Convention, fully supports these goals of the review and wishes that necessary amendments could consequently be approved to the Protocol. The continuous civilian casualties and other severe consequences to civilian population of millions of uncleared mines in various parts of the world call for the international community to intensify its efforts against irresponsible use of anti-personnel mines.

6. The ongoing work of the Governmental Expert Group now preparing the Review Conference of the 1980 Convention and the outcome of the Conference itself, should, in Finland's view, be duly taken into account in the forthcoming report of the Secretary-General requested in resolution 48/7.

7. With regard to the humanitarian aspects of the problem, Finland recognizes the importance and urgency of mine clearance in countries that have been affected by armed conflicts. The indiscriminate use of land-mines, especially anti-personnel mines, constitutes a severe danger to civilian populations. Such use of land-mines also contributes to displacement and blocks humanitarian access. Furthermore, the indiscriminate use of land-mines and the resulting severe difficulties in their de-activation and clearance delay post-conflict peace-building and rehabilitation efforts.

8. The primary responsibility for mine clearance lies with the States in whose territories land-mines are located. Taking into account the difficult post-conflict conditions and the high cost of de-mining programmes, the assistance of the international community is, however, needed in most cases. In view of the magnitude of the problem and limited resources, it is important that international assistance to mine clearance is well coordinated and effective.

9. Finland attaches great importance to the role of the United Nations in mine-clearance activities. Mine-clearance programmes should be seen as an integral part of the coordinated United Nations response to humanitarian and post-conflict peace-building needs of countries affected by armed conflicts.

10. In this context, Finland welcomes the appointment by the Secretary-General of a United Nations de-mining expert with a coordinating role between the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and the Department of Peace-keeping Operations. With regard to coordination between the United Nations agencies participating in humanitarian relief operations, the Department of Humanitarian

/...

Affairs should act as the focal point. Provisions for de-mining programmes, including information and training components, should be included in Department of Humanitarian Affairs-coordinated consolidated appeals. It is also important to enhance coordination between the United Nations and other relevant actors in this field, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross and non-governmental organizations.

11. Finland has provided financial assistance to the de-mining programme in Afghanistan, through the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance, for several years. In 1993, the Finnish assistance amounted to 3 million Finnish marks, which level is expected to be maintained also in 1994. In addition, a contribution of 0.5 million Finnish marks is planned for de-mining activities in Cambodia. Finnish technical expertise and equipment form a part of contributions towards the implementation of United Nations mine-clearance programmes.

GREECE*

[Original: English]

[17 June 1994]

1. The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations has the honour to communicate the European Union's views on "assistance in mine clearance".
2. A distinction needs to be made between the humanitarian assistance aspect - post-conflict peace-building on one hand, and the preventive/disarmament aspect on the other hand (1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, (1980 Convention); resolution 48/75 K, entitled "Moratorium on the export of anti-personnel land-mines", of 16 December 1993).
3. In "An Agenda for Peace" (A/47/277-S/24111), the Secretary-General very clearly highlighted the urgency of mine clearance in countries that have been victims of a conflict and the multidimensional aspect of the consequences of the presence of undetonated mines and other explosive devices. The presence of land-mines, because of their indiscriminate effect, not only represents a danger to the civilian population and an exorbitant economic, medical and social cost, but is also an obstacle to the restoration of basic services, already difficult in war-torn countries. The ever-increasing use of mines and other explosive devices during armed conflicts has taken an intolerable toll of victims, especially among the civilian population. When hostilities cease, minefields and other areas ridden with unexploded devices are frequently left unmarked. Consequently, they are a continuing danger to civilian populations and also to the personnel participating in mine-clearance operations. The presence of unexploded mines and other devices, particularly along communications routes and on farmlands, also seriously hampers the movement and return of large numbers of

* Also on behalf of the European Union.

refugees or displaced persons, the economic recovery and reconstruction and the restoration of a normal social order.

4. The European Union is fully aware that in many countries mine clearance is the prerequisite to the shipment of humanitarian relief and to economic and social recovery, and looks forward to the proposals that the Secretariat might present in order to enhance assistance to mine clearance and its coordination within the United Nations.

5. While the primary role for mine clearance lies with the State in whose territory the mines are located, the profoundly disorganized situation of countries ravaged by years of conflict and the complex, costly nature of the programmes to be implemented must also be taken into account. The contribution of the international community, whether on a bilateral basis or through regional organizations or United Nations agencies, is therefore a key factor in dealing with the disastrous consequences of the presence of mines.

6. The European Union continues to attach great importance to efforts aimed at making adherence to the 1980 Convention and its relevant Protocols more universal and improving the implementation of their existing provisions. The European Union is playing a leading role in the preparatory work for the Conference on the Review of the 1980 Convention and in particular its Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices, as a matter of priority. Given the gravity and the urgency of the land-mine problem, which has been illustrated by several recent events, the European Union will continue to work towards the success of those negotiations with a view to providing more systematic solutions to the land-mine problem in the future.

7. The European Council is very conscious of the land-mine problem and a continuing dialogue on the question is taking place between the European Parliament and the European Council. The problem is also being discussed in the meetings of specialized working groups within the framework of the Common Foreign and Security Policy.

8. As far as assistance in mine clearance is concerned, the European Union has contributed to many important programmes. These programmes fall within the context of support for humanitarian aid and rehabilitation (development assistance).

9. The European Union, through the European Commission, has participated in the financing of a certain number of de-mining operations in the following countries: Afghanistan, Cambodia, Iraq, Mozambique and Somalia. From 1992 to the beginning of 1994, the amount set aside for these operations has been ECU 14 million.

10. The financing of these operations is based on precise criteria, is linked to either humanitarian or development assistance and is designed as part of wider programmes for rehabilitation and in order to ensure that they can be realized.

11. The States members of the European Union also have extensive bilateral programmes, involving the provision both of financial assistance and personnel, in operation in a number of countries, including Afghanistan, Cambodia, Mozambique and Nicaragua. These operations cover a variety of activities including training, mine clearance, research, mine-awareness programmes and collection and provision of information.

12. Major and successful examples of the type of training programmes implemented can be found in Cambodia and Mozambique in the context of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia/United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia and the United Nations Operation in Mozambique. There have also been substantial mine-awareness programmes affecting the civilian population in, for example, Nicaragua and Nagorny Karabakh. Communications equipment has been provided to mine-clearing personnel in Nicaragua, and databases have been opened for assistance to de-mining personnel in a number of programmes.

13. There has, up to now, been little international cooperation on the broad issue of tackling the vast and global land-mine problem. Cooperation has tended to be country or project-based. A greater overall perspective of this problem is therefore needed in order to establish priorities for international action and to provide for the increased coordination of the activities of all parties involved in mine-clearance efforts. In particular, better coordination of the efforts undertaken by States as well as by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the various United Nations agencies, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), is paramount.

14. The European Union stresses the importance of coordination by the United Nations of activities related to mine clearance. In this context the European Union welcomes the appointment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations de-mining expert with an overall coordinating role between the Departments of Humanitarian Affairs and Peace-keeping Operations. The de-mining expert should serve as the source of policy advice for all departments at United Nations Headquarters. He should also facilitate cooperation on this key issue throughout the United Nations system through, in particular, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs which should have primary responsibility for coordinating mine-clearing activities not directly related to the operational needs of a peace-keeping operation.

15. The experience of members of the European Union has also shown that mine-clearance operations have sometimes been hindered by the lack of a memorandum of understanding between the member States providing the de-mining assistance and the United Nations organization administering the operation. For instance, there have been differences, inter alia, about the status of the member States' technical advisers and about the compensation with respect to illness, disability or death, incurred in the course of the mine-clearing mission. In order for mine-clearance operations to proceed more effectively in the future, such issues should be resolved well in advance. As it is fair to expect that mine-clearance activities will be expanding in the future, the drafting of general rules of procedures and standard memoranda of understanding would greatly assist in the more rapid start-up of such activities.

/...

16. The European Union is prepared to envisage training in mine-clearance techniques as being provided as part of a peace-keeping operation, as in UNTAC. But the actual process of mine clearance (other than for the immediate operational needs of a peace-keeping operation) should be carried out by and under the auspices of host Governments. Priority should accordingly be given to the training of local de-miners and to the development by host Governments of effective methods of educating local populations of the dangers of mines and how to avoid mines and other unexploded devices.

17. To ensure the effective management of mine-clearance activities, host Governments might create or should be assisted in creating an overall framework to draw in relevant United Nations agencies and bilateral donors, as well as the appropriate technical experts or teams of experts, including non-governmental organizations. It is particularly important that in preparing consolidated appeals the Department of Humanitarian Affairs should include provision for de-mining. Sometimes, in the context of the movement of a large number of refugees or displaced persons, it could logically fall to one of the appropriate United Nations agencies to provide the relevant framework for implementing partners to carry out mine clearance.

18. In addition, the European Union believes that it would be helpful if the Department of Humanitarian Affairs was equipped to establish a central database related to mine clearance at United Nations Headquarters. This database might include:

(a) All readily available information on the location of laid land-mines and their types;

(b) Information on the results of the latest research in the field of improved mine-detection and mine-clearance techniques;

(c) Information on past and present mine-clearance operations and facilities, including manpower, sources of supply, costs and so on.

19. The European Union is considering favourably the proposal to establish a United Nations voluntary trust fund to assist especially in information and training programmes relating to mine clearance and to facilitate the launching of mine-clearance operations. This would be in particular to cover the phase between training supervisors and managers and funding for mine-clearance programmes through a consolidated appeal or well-targeted bilateral programme.

20. In that context, the European Union asks the Secretary-General for his views on the size and management of the fund. This would depend on the financial need for coordination in the fields of information and training as well as to facilitate the launching of mine-clearance programmes (see para. 5 of resolution 48/7).

IRAQ

[Original: Arabic]

[7 June 1994]

1. The military aggression launched by the coalition forces against Iraq left behind a large number of unexploded bombs, missiles, shells and mines. Since the beginning of 1992, the United Nations has been notified periodically of the numbers of explosives found by civil defence teams and deactivated, as well as statistics of the numbers of the deaths of innocent civilians and the material losses caused by these unexploded bombs and devices, which are scattered over all parts of Iraq.
2. The number of bombs, shells, mines and missiles of various types found and deactivated by the year's end was 263,938. These explosives caused the deaths of 112 innocent civilians, including children, and wounded 154 persons. At the same time, the casualties among the ranks of the disposal teams carrying out the deactivation of these explosives totalled 19 dead and 14 wounded.
3. These figures show the extent of the danger threatening the lives of innocent civilians in Iraq, in addition to the threats to which they are exposed as result of a lack of food and medicines and the deterioration of the health situation because of the iniquitous embargo imposed on Iraq, which prevents the Iraqi people from fulfilling the most elementary fundamental human needs.

ISRAEL

[Original: English]

[3 August 1994]

1. Israel would like to offer its know-how, assistance and training in mine clearance.
2. In addition, Israel is willing to cooperate with interested parties on research and development of mine-clearance equipment, as well as offering to sell indigenously mine-clearance equipment.
3. Israel would like to draw attention to the fact that in addressing world wide an effort to reduce the damage caused by anti-personnel land-mines, the Israeli Government has decided upon a moratorium of two years on the transfer of anti-personnel land-mines. During this period, Israel will be working with other interested parties to review the establishment of a permanent regime for banning the transfer of anti-personnel land-mines.

JORDAN

[Original: Arabic]

[17 August 1994]

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Mines were already being used in warfare prior to the First World War. They were used in different ways with the aim of exerting a material and "moral" impact on the enemy forces, inflicting the greatest possible losses and obstructing their progress for as long as possible.

2. The world is at present seeking to avoid all forms of mine-based warfare and to alleviate the damage that mines cause, particularly to human beings in the form of suffering, maiming and death, in addition to their destructive economic impact. To that end, the United Nations General Assembly, on 19 October 1993, adopted resolution 48/7 entitled "Assistance in mine clearance", urging Member States to cooperate in a general way with the Secretary-General of the United Nations in that area.

3. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is one of the countries worst affected by the problem of mines on its borders with neighbouring countries. They have constituted an enormous economic burden and they have also affected development plans, particularly in the Jordan Valley and on the northern front. The clearance of these mines will place a further burden on Jordan in a number of areas.

II. OBJECT

4. A study of minefield clearance operations in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, specifically on the cease-fire line, and of the present and future problems and consequences that may be expected to ensue.

5. A statement of the cost of financing the requisite operations and of the cost of clearance materials.

6. Publishing of Jordanian experience and presentation of corresponding recommendations that may be of benefit internationally, drawing attention to the options available in the field.

III. FACTS OF THE PROBLEM

7. Engineering capability. Four engineering battalions attached to the divisions. The Royal Seventh Armoured Engineering Battalion.

8. Various quantities and types of mines were laid, including plastic and metal varieties.

/...

9. A total of 286,330 different mines were laid, of which 80,137 have been cleared since 1967, leaving a total of 206,193.

10. Length of time since the mines were laid. Most of the mines were laid between 20 and 30 years ago with the following results:

(a) Displacement of some of the mines from their original position as a result of weather conditions or the nature of the terrain in some places;

(b) Soil accumulation and flooding, which has created problems in using traditional methods of clearance;

(c) Increased sensitivity of mines owing to deterioration of the casing from exposure and interaction with the surrounding soil;

(d) Unreported explosions of a large number of mines owing to a variety of factors, making it difficult to count the number of missing mines following clearance;

(e) The difficulty of giving full assurances of safety to local people who wish to exploit their land, thus laying up problems for the future.

11. It follows from the foregoing that the casualty rate will be relatively greater during the clearance exercise when only traditional methods are used.

12. The cost in terms of mine-laying, mine destruction, the effort expended and the expected human casualties is a major financial burden that cannot be overlooked.

IV. ASSUMPTIONS

13. Participation by all division engineering battalions in the clearance operations, with each battalion providing four task forces, consisting in each case of 2 officers and 10 other ranks, which can relieve each other during different periods of duty of the same battalion. This gives a total of 16 task forces.

14. Provision of 2 task forces by the Royal Seventh Armoured Engineering Battalion of the army corps of engineers, bringing the total to 18.

15. Central control of all task forces and their positions by the Royal Corps of Engineers Command.

16. On the basis of experience and reports of casualties, the approximate ratio is one casualty per 1,000 mines cleared, with the following pattern of distribution of the casualties (data from a study of the number of casualties and of mines cleared from 1970 to 1994):

(a) Fatalities: 13.25 per cent;

(b) Loss of a limb: 45.78 per cent;

/...

- (c) Loss of sight: 8.2 per cent;
 - (d) Loss of hearing: 4 per cent;
 - (e) Miscellaneous injuries (serious and moderate): 28.77 per cent.
17. For the purpose of estimating the financial cost of mines, the prices of M-19 anti-tank mines and M-14 anti-personnel mines were taken as the basis for the study, that is to say US\$ 90 for an anti-tank mine and US\$ 30 for an anti-personnel mine.
18. Cost of angle irons and barbed wire for standard fencing.
19. The amount of explosives needed to destroy the mines was estimated on the basis of one pound for every five mines plus a regular No. 27 detonator and a two-foot delayed-reaction fuse (destroying all anti-tank mines in their positions and crushing anti-personnel mines).
20. Individual costs based on the cost to the armed forces covering food, clothing and pay.
21. The cost of medical evacuation by air on the basis of \$2,000 per flight.
22. The cost of hospital treatment estimated on the basis of hypothetical casualty ratios and the cost of each injury.
23. Administrative items required for the task forces aside from food and drink, calculated on the basis of one dinar per day for every three persons.

V. PRESENT SITUATION OF THE MINEFIELDS

24. A total of 490 minefields containing 286,330 miscellaneous mines were laid. Of these, 154 fields containing 80,137 miscellaneous mines have been cleared since 1967.
25. There are now 336 minefields containing 206,193 mines, of which 140,940 are anti-personnel mines and 65,253 anti-tank mines, dispersed along the frontiers of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan with neighbouring countries, mostly on the front with Israel.

VI. CLEARANCE METHODS

26. It has been established that manual clearance is the best method of dealing with minefields. In spite of the time factor and the risk of casualties, the safety ratio is very high, especially in fields recently laid in a methodical way.
27. Given the characteristics of the minefields and in view of the foregoing, a proposed approach was adopted and proved successful in practice, leading to a reduction in the casualty ratio. It may be summarized as follows:

/...

(a) Conduct of a survey of the field, showing the configuration and the median line of the zone;

(b) Removal of the central mine in each mixed group (anti-tank mine) and any anti-personnel mine that is visible;

(c) Compilation of a list of all missing anti-tank mines, checking them against the records and returning for a second manual inspection;

(d) Use of a minesweeper in the areas containing missing anti-tank mines;

(e) Use of the minesweeper throughout the zones to destroy anti-personnel mines;

(f) Use of an assault tank throughout the field, following the pattern in which the mines were laid, so that the tracks produce an overlap effect in line with the pattern;

(g) Use of the blades of a mine-clearing plough, penetrating to the greatest possible depth, to plough the area of the minefield.

28. It is possible to use minesweepers in mine-clearance operations from the outset, but this is costly in material terms since the minesweeper is accident-prone in all circumstances and its use must be followed by a manual inspection.

29. It is possible to use explosives in mine clearance but this approach calls for explosive operations on a massive scale and advanced equipment that is not suited to minefields.

VII. THE PROPOSED PROCEDURE, THE TASK FORCES AND THE TIME REQUIRED FOR CLEARANCE

30. The proposed procedure for mine clearance in the future is that currently followed, a combination of manual and mechanical operations.

31. Work is conducted with 12 task forces a day, keeping 6 in reserve. Each task force works for four hours a day in view of the weather conditions and nervous tension.

32. Each task force can clear 30 different mines a day, so that a total of 360 mines can be cleared daily.

33. The total number of days required by the task forces is $206,193 \div 360 = 573$ working days.

34. Twenty per cent of the time calculated is required for the use of minesweepers and mine-clearing ploughs with a reserve margin = 115 working days.

35. Expected grand total of working days: $115 + 573 = 688$ working days (almost three years).

/...

VIII. ESTIMATED FINANCIAL COST

36. Cost of the mines laid and of the explosive accessories required to destroy them

(a) Anti-tank mines:	$65,253 \times 90 = \$5,872,770$
(b) Anti-personnel mines:	$140,940 \times 30 = \$4,228,200$
(c) S-4 paste:	$(206,193 \div 5) \times 7 = \$288,670$
(d) Regular detonator:	$41,240 \times 2.1 = \$86,604$
(e) Delayed-action fuse (by the foot):	$82,480 \times 0.33 = \$27,494$
(f) Explosive substance (one ounce):	$41,240 \times 0.25 = \$10,310$
(g) Total:	\$10,514,048

37. Cost of human resources

(a) Total cost per private: pay, medical care, transport and heating, bed, mattress, pillow = 6.92 Jordanian dinars per day;

(b) Daily cost of an officer: JD 11.21;

(c) Total number of privates participating in the operation: 310 privates (engineering, medical services, communications, administrative services, drivers);

(d) Total number of officers participating in the operation: 52 officers (engineering, medical services);

(e) Cost of privates for the full number of working days anticipated:
 $688 \times 6.92 \times 310 = \text{JD } 1,475,897$ (equivalent to \$2,108,425);

(f) Cost of officers for the full number of working days anticipated:
 $52 \times 11.21 \times 688 = \text{JD } 401,049$ (equivalent to \$572,927);

(g) Total cost of privates and officers: $\$572,927 + \$2,108,425 = \$2,681,352$.

38. Cost of medical evacuation by air: it has been calculated that a single evacuation exercise costs \$2,000. The expected number of casualties on the basis of previous averages is $206,193 \div 1,000 =$ approximately 206 casualties, of which 75 per cent need to be evacuated by air, that is to say 155. The cost is therefore $155 \times \$2,000 = \$310,000$.

39. Cost of fencing

(a) Straight wire (by the reel):	$45,000 \times 18.57 = \$83,565$
(b) Long six-foot angle iron:	$80,000 \times 5.36 = \$428,800$

/...

- (c) Short three-foot angle iron: $30,000 \times 3.57 = \$107,100$
- (d) Coiled wire (by the reel): $500 \times 107.2 = \$53,600$
- (e) Total cost of fencing: $\$1,425,150$

40. Cost of recreation: estimated to average one dinar a day for every three privates = $(362 + 3) \times 688 = \text{JD } 83,019$ (equivalent to \$118,599).

41. Cost of machinery: (including mine-clearing ploughs, minesweepers, Landrovers and trucks) calculated on the basis of the cost of the machinery per working day, as follows:

(a) Mine-clearing plough: cost per working day = JD 110; total cost = $100 \times 115 = 12,650 \times 6 = \text{JD } 75,900$ (equivalent to \$108,429);

(b) Minesweeper: cost per working day = JD 100; total cost = $(100 \times 115) \times 6 = \text{JD } 69,000$ (equivalent to \$98,572);

(c) Landrover: $(35 \times 4) \times 688 = \text{JD } 96,320$ (equivalent to \$137,600);

(d) 2.5 ton truck: $(18 \times 8) \times 688 = \text{JD } 99,072$ (equivalent to \$141,532);

(e) Total cost of machinery: $\$108,429 + \$98,572 + \$137,600 + \$141,532 = \$486,133$.

42. Grand total: $\$10,514,048 + \$2,681,352 + \$310,000 + \$1,425,150 + \$118,599 + \$486,133 = \$15,535,282$ (an average of roughly \$75 per mine laid), excluding the cost of expertise and payroll units.

IX. PROBLEMS STEMMING FROM MINE CLEARANCE

43. Engineering problems

(a) Commitment of most of the engineering capability to clearance operations for a very long period;

(b) Increased casualty ratio among privates;

(c) Depreciation of most of the engineering corps machinery owing to constant use and the possibility of accidents;

(d) The difficulty of ensuring a 100 per cent safety ratio, so that problems will arise with the local population in the future;

(e) The impact on the training plans of participating units;

(f) The high cost of clearance operations, especially if account is taken of compensation and early retirement resulting from casualties.

/...

44. Security and mobilization problems: the mine-clearance operation will affect defence and security plans, requiring total reliance on the human factor in security and defence activities, taking into account the length of Jordan's frontiers with neighbouring countries and the limited human resources available.

X. JORDANIAN EXPERTISE AND POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION
IN THE INTERNATIONAL ENDEAVOUR

45. The Jordanian armed forces have acquired considerable expertise in dealing with minefields, scattered mines and other explosive devices through their continuous work in the area for some 40 years or more.

46. Jordanian expertise may be shared at the international level in one of the following ways:

(a) Participation in the training of United Nations forces in areas laid with mines;

(b) Practical participation in task forces actually involved in mine clearance in the United Nations forces, with coordinated prior training of the task forces concerned on mines present in possible areas of operation;

(c) The engineering capability that could be made available without affecting the standard support that our units require amounts to five task forces, each composed of two officers and 10 other ranks;

(d) Practical experience has shown that the best way of dealing with mines is as follows:

(i) Manually, when dealing with minefields laid in a regular way;

(ii) Use of minesweepers and mine-clearing ploughs for clearing fields of scattered or randomly laid mines.

LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

[Original: Arabic]

[15 September 1994]

1. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya wishes to reiterate that it welcomes resolution 48/7 adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session concerning the clearance of mines resulting from armed conflicts. It supports the steps called for by the resolution and regards it as a basis for ongoing and developing action to enable the international community to be rid of mines and other unexploded devices whose presence causes serious humanitarian, social, economic and ecological distraction.

2. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is one of those States still facing this grave problem. It first encountered it with the outbreak of the Second World War,

/...

when its territory became a major theatre of war. It had to endure a number of grim military operations engaged in by the Axis forces and the Allied forces. The military operations included intensive laying of mines and booby traps of various kinds in vast areas of its territory, coastal areas and territorial waters. When the Second World War ended and the combatants departed from the territory of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, they left behind them vast areas laid with mines and booby traps, without clearing them or assisting in the clearance or providing maps indicating the location. The situation was aggravated by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya's lack of the necessary technical expertise for clearance operations.

3. One result of this singular situation was that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was affected with tremendous losses of lives and property, as well as obstruction of its development plans and an increase in the cost of its programme. It is not easy to make accurate and final assessments, but a preliminary study prepared by Libyan experts has estimated the losses in lives and property over a specific period as follows:

(a) Losses of lives

(i) Deaths, 1940-1952	3,780
(ii) Deaths, 1952-1975	1,890
(iii) Permanently disabling injuries, 1940-1952	3,290
(iv) Permanently disabling injuries, 1952-1975	1,645

These figures include men, women and children.

(b) Losses of property

(i) Animal husbandry sector (result of minefields in traditional areas)

a. Camels	75,000
b. Sheep	36,250
c. Goats	12,500
d. Cattle	1,250

The total value of the losses in the animal husbandry sector are estimated at approximately 30 million Libyan dinars (LD) at 1981 prices.

/...

(ii) Petroleum sector, 1952-1972

a. Shock line [?] clearance operations	LD 18,168,500
b. Expenses of the oil fields department	LD 7,560,000
c. Hazard pay for personnel	<u>LD 21,526,000</u>
Total	<u>LD 47,254,500</u>

(iii) Agricultural sector

a. Expenses of clearing certain areas	LD 161,137,500
b. Non-exploitation of agricultural grain land	LD 511,472,110
c. Damage to wells and pastureland	LD 750,000
d. Damage resulting from delays in development plans	<u>LD 325,000,000</u>
Total	<u>LD 998,359,610</u>

(iv) Industrial sector

It was not possible to estimate the damage resulting from stoppage of minerals exploration because of the presence of mines.

(v) Communication sector

Roads and ports	LD 2,500,000,000
-----------------	------------------

(vi) Expenses of the Explosives Section of the Department of Justice

1954-1972	LD 2,042,221
-----------	--------------

4. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has made unparalleled efforts, within the limits of its capabilities and possibilities, but it has been unable so far to get rid of the minefields laid in its territory, because of the extensiveness of the areas concerned, the variety of mine types and the absence of maps and documents indicating their location, as well as the lack of the necessary expertise to cope with this vast problem. These minefields still constitute a hazard, despite the lapse of time. Even now there are incidents of land-mines exploding, and from time to time sea-mines are found. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has sought to have the belligerent parties that laid these mines furnish maps and documents indicating their location, but these efforts have been unproductive, though in a few cases of limited effect.

5. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has seen fit to draw the attention of the international community to this problem, which has been brought before the General Assembly previously. We have submitted the issue to the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the Organization of

/...

African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations General Assembly. The General Assembly has considered it and has adopted a number of resolutions on the subject, and the Secretary-General submitted a report on the material remnants of war and their effect on the environment pursuant to General Assembly resolution 3435 (XXX).

6. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has made fine efforts in preparing the reports and study requested of it by the General Assembly. There was great hope that the United Nations efforts would continue, but they halted because of lack of data, although fresh hope has arisen with the adoption of General Assembly resolution 48/7.

7. In this context, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has organized a number of symposia at home and abroad, including the one organized in conjunction with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) at Geneva from 28 April to 1 May 1981, and the conclusions of this symposium could be utilized.

8. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya would like to affirm the following:

(a) The importance of the role that the United Nations can play in contributing to the coordination of activities relating to mine-clearance operations, particularly activities relating to information and training aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of field operations; and also the importance of drawing on previous efforts of United Nations bodies, in particular UNEP and UNITAR;

(b) The parties that laid the mines must fulfil their obligations; it is vital that they cooperate by furnishing maps and documents indicating the location of minefields and by providing the necessary technical assistance for clearance operations.

9. In conclusion, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya wishes to point out that the Agreement that it signed with the Republic of Chad on 4 April 1994 concerning the practical modalities for the implementation of the Judgment delivered by the International Court of Justice concerning the territorial dispute between them contains, in article 2, provisions relating to mine clearance.

10. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya will continue to make every effort to cooperate with the United Nations towards arrival at an effective solution to this grave problem.

MEXICO

[Original: Spanish]

[6 June 1994]

1. For the Government of Mexico it is important to stress the definitive solution to the problem of the presence of mines and other unexploded devices in various parts of the world is a complete prohibition of the production, storage,

/...

export and proliferation of this kind of inhuman weapon, an objective towards which the efforts of the international community must be directed.

2. It is thus appropriate to make an urgent appeal to those States which have not yet done so to become parties as early as possible to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, and to its protocols.

3. The provisions on the use, emplacement and clearance of mines contained in Protocol II to the 1980 Convention must be respected and observed under all circumstances.

4. With regard to the clearance of mines, the coordination of mine clearance activities, including those carried out by regional agencies in accordance with their mandates, must devolve upon the United Nations in order to improve the effectiveness of operations in the field.

5. It would be advisable for the budgets of peace-keeping operations deployed in conflict zones where there is prior knowledge of the presence of mines to include sufficient financial resources for their clearance.

6. In any event, mine clearance operations, whether conducted by the United Nations through its peace-keeping operations or by other intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies, should be carried out at the request of the State concerned.

7. The Government of Mexico is of the view that the trust fund for mine clearance activities must be constituted by voluntary contributions only and that the resources available from the fund must be assigned in support of activities by Governments and other bodies involved in mine clearance operations.

NICARAGUA

[Original: Spanish]

[22 July 1994]

TERRAIN

I. General

Much of Nicaragua's terrain is mountainous with fairly rugged relief. There are also flat areas which are subject to flooding, as well as valleys experiencing periodic floods. Most of the minefields were laid in rugged and undulating terrain at altitudes of between 800 and 1,500 metres above sealevel. Some fields were laid in areas subject to flooding, and as a result there has been some movement of an undetermined number of mines; there has also been some movement as a result of landslides and erosion.

/...

There is rainfall for nearly nine months of the year in the mountainous sectors and the climate is harsh and wet.

The vegetation is lush and tropical.

The country does not experience seasons, but there are rainy and dry periods, which influences the climate, but the real determinant of ambient temperature is altitude above sealevel, that is the thermal level at each location.

II. Characteristics of mined areas

1. Northern border sector

1.1 Area between Palo Grande (87° 01' 15") and San Pedro del Norte (86° 52' 55")

- Relief: Sector has flat topography with irregular elevations of 100 to 1,500 metres above sealevel.
- Vegetation: Sparse, with widespread calabash, a typical dry area growth; the vegetation changes in the San Pedro del Norte sector, where there is a predominance of pine.
- Climate: Dry, generally low rainfall, the most important river being the Guasaule, which forms the border with Honduras.
- Road network: The principal road is the highway between Chinandega-Somotillo-Cinco Pinos and San Rafael del Norte.

1.2 Area between San Pedro del Norte (87° 01' 15") and Wamblan (85° 44' 55")

- Relief: The area is characterized by elevations of 300 to 2,100 metres above sealevel, with flat zones in the Dipilto valley, Jalapa and Santa María, where tobacco, vegetables, maize, beans and rice are cultivated. The area is drained by various small rivers, including the Poteca, the Dipilto and the Macuelizo.
- Vegetation: Dense coverage with pine, oak, fir and other valuable timber.
- Climate: Wet, rainfall almost all year round, with temperatures reaching 18°C at higher elevations.
- Road network: The Pan-American Highway extends to the Las Manos border post, with a branch road to Yalaguina and Ocotal, and a network of roads joining Ocotal with Jalapa and Teotecacinte.

/...

2. Central sector (comprises Departments of Estelí, Jinotega and Matagalpa)

- Relief: The region is essentially mountainous with altitudes in excess of 1,500 metres above sealevel, including the Peñas Blancas, Samaria, Kilambé and Chimborazo massifs. This sector contains the country's major rivers, including: Matagalpa, Bocay, Tuma and Coco. It also contains the Apanás reservoir, with an area of 51 square kilometres.
- Vegetation: Wooded with oak and pine and other kinds of valuable timber, mixed with plots of grain crops and livestock pasture.
- Climate: Extremely wet, with rainfall almost all year round. Vegetation is always green. Cool temperatures, reaching 18 to 20°C at higher elevations.
- Road network: A stretch of the Pan-American Highway between Darío, Sébaco, Estelí, Matagalpa and Jinotega. There are also networks of all-weather highways as follows:
- Matagalpa-Matiguás-Río Blanco
 - Matagalpa-Tuma-Waslala
 - Jinotega-Pueblo Nuevo-Bocay-Ayapal
 - Palacaguina-San Juan de Río Coco-Quilalí
 - Jinotega-Waswalí
 - Estelí-La Concordia-San Rafael del Norte-Yalí

3. Southern border sector

3.1 El Naranjo-Peñas Blancas-Los Chiles area (85° 41' 15") and San Juan del Norte (83° 41' 28")

- Relief: The Peñas Blancas-El Naranjo sector is virtually flat, extending towards the Pacific Ocean with some elevations of 600 metres having gentle slopes of 10 to 30 per cent. The most important river is the Sapoá, with a number of tributaries from Lake Nicaragua.
- Vegetation: From Peñas Blancas towards the east are savannah and forested areas, and towards the Pacific Ocean sparse woods and scrub with such vegetation as genízaro, conacaste and bombax.
- Climate: Hot, with a single season and two periods, one dry and one rainy.

Road network: The principal highway is from Rivas to Peñas Blancas, with a branch to San Juan del Sur and all-weather roads linking El Naranjo, Sapoá and El Ostional.

3.2 Sapoá-Las Cañas region on the Costa Rican border

Relief: Mostly flat, with a few locations, such as Cerro El Diablo, Cerro Pescado and Cerro Tigra, between 300 and 600 metres above sealevel. Similar characteristics to the Peñas Blancas-El Naranjo sector.

Vegetation: Dense, semi-forested, abundant supplies of valuable timber, including one of the country's main forest reserves. Also cattle raising and cultivation of traditional crops.

Climate: Humid with heavy rainfall.

Road network: Undeveloped; all-weather roads provide links to Acoyapa, Morrito and San Carlos. One of the main communication links is the San Juan river which marks the border with Costa Rica.

III. Other considerations

(a) Characteristics of the mines

The mines laid both in Nicaraguan territory and in areas along the borders with Costa Rica and Honduras have the following technical characteristics:

General technical data

Type of mine	Origin	Type of fuse
MAT PTMI-K	Czechoslovakia	RO-5 and Activ. RO-3
MAP PPMI-SR-11	Czechoslovakia	RO-8, MUV-2, EM-1
MAP PMN	USSR	MD-9 detonator
MAP PMN-2	USSR	Integrated detonator
MAP M/969	Portugal (of Belgian manufacture)	Integrated detonator

During the military conflict in Nicaragua, the following quantities of mines were laid:

/...

Existence and location of minefields

No.	Locality	Minefields (km)	Number of targets	No. of mines
1.	In the interior	45.3	318	55 049
2.	Northern border	145	425	55 957
3.	Southern border	15	98	4 845
	Total	205.3	839	115 851

IV. Mine-clearance programme in Nicaragua

The Nicaraguan Government, with the assistance of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB), launched in April 1993, pursuant to the agreements signed on 31 March 1993 in Washington, D.C., a Plan for the Removal of Mines in the National Territory. The same Plan provides for the training of up to five platoons of sappers who would be responsible for the clearance and destruction of minefields and for the execution phase of the operations.

The execution phase of the mine-clearing operations included the destruction of mines planted in the following target localities:

General list of targets to be cleared

No.	Type of targets	Military units								Number of mines		
		1 MRC	2 MRC	4 MRC	5 MRC	6 MRC	MMD	EPS N.P.	Total	Pres- sure	Fragm.	Total
1.	High-tension towers	97			105	92			294	13 300		13 300
2.	Energy plants (electrical substation)				1	3			4	5 707		5 707
3.	Human settlements, villages and cooperatives					6			6	11 872	604	12 476
4.	Bridges					3			3	1 206		1 206
5.	Antenna fields and high-tension towers				1	1			2	2 151		2 151
6.	Warehouses							1	1	2 957		2 957
	Total	97			107	105		1	310	37 193	604	37 797

/...

This phase of execution was expected to be completed in approximately two years.

As part of these operations and with the assistance of OAS/IADB, mines in the following target localities were successfully removed and destroyed:

Status of mine-clearing operations supervised by IADB

No.	Targets cleared	Mines destroyed	Area cleared, m ²
1	60	2 375	27 649

Because of financial constraints, the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Defense Board were forced to withdraw their staff and to terminate the programme of assistance for the removal and destruction of mines in Nicaragua on 15 November 1993.

In a supreme effort to attain the objectives of the Plan for Removal of Mines in the National Territory (Stage 1), the Army continued its operations without the benefit of technical or financial assistance and achieved the following results during this period:

Results of mine-clearance operations by
the EPS since the withdrawal of IADB

No.	Targets cleared	Mines destroyed	Area cleared, m ²
1	68	4 139	35 193

Final results of mine-clearance operations over seven months

No.	Targets cleared	Mines destroyed	Area cleared, m ²
1	128	6 514	62 847

Eight accidents occurred during these operations, resulting in two deaths and six injuries.

These operations were suspended by the Army, which could not fund them from its own resources and received no extrabudgetary funding for them.

After seven months of operations, the situation as regards remaining mines is as follows:

/...

Existence and location of minefields

No.	Target locality	Minefields	Number of targets	Number of mines
1.	In the interior		190	48 535
2.	Northern border	145	425	55 957
3.	Southern border	15	98	4 845
	Total	160	711	109 337

The following targets were cleared of mines:

- (a) MRC 1: 55 high-tension towers in the national electricity grid
1 settlement (village)
1 antenna field
 - (b) MRC 5: 24 high-tension towers in the national electricity grid
 - (c) MRC 6: 46 high-tension towers in the national electricity grid
1 hydro-electric plant (partially cleared)
- 128 targets cleared

SUPPLIES REQUIRED FOR MINE-CLEARANCE OPERATIONS WHICH EPS DOES NOT HAVE IN ITS INVENTORY (TAKING AS A NORM ONE SAPPER PLATOON) a/

No.	Description	Unit of measurement	Quantity required	Total	Remarks
I.	<u>Field equipment</u>				
1.	Tents				
	(a) T-5	Each	1		
	(b) T-10	Each	4		
	(c) T-20	Each	1		
II.	<u>Communications equipment</u>				
2.	Walkie talkie	Each	4		With storage battery and individual chargers.
III.	<u>Technical equipment</u>				
3.	Explosive	Kg	100		TNT.
4.	Detonating cord	Metres	1 000		The amounts are calculated for one month of work per platoon.
5.	Electrical detonators	Each	50		
6.	Explosive detonators	Each	50		

/...

No.	Description	Unit of measurement	Quantity required	Total	Remarks
7.	Mechanical igniters	Each	50		
8.	Safety fuse	Metres	200		
V.	<u>Special equipment</u>				
9.	Detectors	Each	5		AN/PSS-12.
10.	Protective goggles	Each	20		Protective optics.
11.	Protective suits	Each	5		Anti-suction wave jackets.
VI.	<u>Other</u>				
12.	Pay	Córdobas	25 000	25 000	Per platoon (monthly).
13.	Life insurance				Depending on the injury suffered. The amount is determined by the insurance company.
14.	Cold rations	Each	272		

a/ For information: seven months of operations by EPS with five platoons at a cost of C\$ 2,346,867, excluding explosives and detonators.

Conclusions

1. To constitute the Special Mine-clearing Unit (UED), five sapper platoons were formed and trained consisting of 22 specialists in each team and 12 support personnel of whom between 50 and 60 per cent belonged to the main units of the army (career soldiers) and the other 40 to 50 per cent were contractual.

After the termination of the plan, for the reasons already given, the UED was reduced to three sapper platoons equipped to carry out mine-clearance missions; the platoons consisted entirely of career soldiers who had participated in the mine-clearance operations. Each platoon consisted of 23 men (one team leader, three squads of seven sappers and one driver) structured permanently as a reserve unit of the high command.

2. The mine removal operations provided significant experience for the small units which participated in this plan.

3. If the national mine-clearance plan is continued, with international assistance, the possibility of using mechanical means of mine clearance must be considered, since there are flat mined areas where this would be possible, thus reducing the risk of accidents. Similarly, the option should be left open of acquiring, through donations or aid, individual suits which would give better protection than those we have now.

4. With the experience of seven months of operations, it has been determined that the best time of year for carrying out mine-clearance operations is during the dry months (five months, from January to May).

/...

5. The method of removing mines (detection and destruction) has been changed in order to reduce the percentage of casualties resulting from accidents, to the extent that during the first four months of work there was a 12 per cent casualty rate among all the sappers involved in the mine-clearance work, but by the time the operations were stopped, the rate had fallen to 2 per cent of the total number of sappers.

6. EPS has an approximate register of some 75 per cent of the minefields which are proposed for destruction.

7. In order to continue the programme of assistance in mine removal, stable financing is essential; that will enable us to provide pay for the personnel and life insurance in case of accidents, purchase blasting agents, priming agents and fuel, and provide protection with special protection equipment and means of detecting mines which may cause casualties, both as a result of accidents and in the course of clearance.

Inventory of technical equipment supplied by the Inter-American
Defense Board to the Ejército Popular Sandinista

No.	Description	Total
1	Standard pliers	15
2	6 volt Yuasa battery	4
3	Bag to carry explosives	15
4	Red flags to indicate danger	10
5	Helmets	130
6	DR-8 reel	15
7	Tape to indicate danger, 1,000 feet with harness	48
8	White marking tape, 500 feet	9
9	Metric tape, 100 feet	15
10	Metric tape, 6 feet	15
11	Fluorescent cones, red	160
12	Trowels (small)	10
13	Trowels (large)	5
14	Trowels (large)	30
15	Nylon cord (1,200 ft. roll)	5
16	Camp-beds	10
17	Metallic reel with 500 feet of cable	12
18	Grey anti-suction wave jackets	20
19	Bullet-proof jackets	115
20	Mine detector (set mine PSS)	20
21	Plastic case for 10 non-electric primers	30
22	M-34 blaster	15
23	Honda generators	4
24	Grappling hook	4
25	Axes with wooden hafts	10
26	Screwdriver set (6 pieces)	5

/...

No.	Description	Total
27	Battery kit	4
28	Protective goggles (protective optics)	29
29	Machetes	10
30	Handles for DR-8 reel	15
31	Poles for danger flags	17
32	Mine markers	510
33	Swiss Victorinox knives	30
34	Circuit tester (Test set Blasting)	15
35	Pairs of anti-mine boots	23
36	Spades with wide wooden handles	18
37	Protective anti-mine trousers	20
38	Leaf blower (Husquarna 140E)	15
39	Triangular sheet-metal signs	60
40	Pliers to cut wire or sheet metal	15
41	Tent	5

Current stock of special mine-clearance equipment

No.	Description	Unit of measurement	Quantity
I	<u>Special protective equipment</u>		
1	Anti-suction wave jacket	Each	18
2	Leg coverings	Each	18
3	Protective shoes	Pairs	20
4	Protective goggles	Pairs	10
5	Bullet-proof jackets	Each	106
6	Bullet-proof helmets	Each	126
II	<u>Technical supplies</u>		
1	Mine detectors	Each	13
2	Exploders	Each	11
3	Circuit testers	Each	12
6	Bag for person carrying explosives	Each	14
7	Metal helmets	Each	145
8	Signal cones	Each	85
9	Yellow tape	Roll	21
10	Metric tape (100 feet)	Each	8
11	Reel with cable	Each	9
15	Anchors	Each	13
16	White tape	Roll	5
17	Single strand wire	Roll	12
	Leaf blowers	Each	15
	Honda generators	Each	4

/...

No.	Description	Unit of measurement	Quantity
III	<u>Tools</u>		
2	Shovels	Each	18
3	Machetes	Each	10
8	Axes	Each	10
10	Wire cutters	Each	12
12	Trowels	Each	11
13	Red flags	Each	7
IV	<u>Field equipment</u>		
1	USA tent	Each	3
12	Medical pack	Each	5

NORWAY

[Original: English]

[1 July 1994]

1. The Government of Norway is gravely concerned by the increasing use of anti-personnel land-mines in conflict areas. The primary victims of land-mines are unarmed civilians. Children are particularly affected. Land-mines also have a devastating impact on societies at large by making entire areas of land inaccessible for decades, preventing refugees and internally displaced persons from returning home and hindering development and rehabilitation.

2. The Government of Norway has made considerable contributions to de-mining activities in war-ridden areas. Since 1989, the Government has, as part of its humanitarian assistance, made a total contribution of NKr 96 million (\$14 million) to de-mining operations in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Mozambique, Angola, Eritrea, Somalia and northern Iraq.

3. The funds are channelled through the United Nations system in support of United Nations operations, such as the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Assistance to Afghanistan, and Norwegian non-governmental organizations, such as the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA). The NPA de-mining operations are carried out in close cooperation with United Nations de-mining operations or as an integrated part of such operations. The NPA operations include humanitarian mine clearance, training of local de-miners and supervisors, mine-awareness programmes and general information on mines.

4. The Government of Norway welcomes the establishment, within the United Nations Secretariat, of a coordinated mine-clearance programme. This is an important first step in coordinating United Nations activities related to mine clearance.

/...

5. To strengthen further the United Nations contribution to the solution of problems relating to mine clearance, the Government of Norway supports the proposal to establish a central database related to mine clearance within the mine-clearance unit.

6. The Government of Norway also considers favourably the proposal to establish a voluntary trust fund to finance information and training programmes relating to mine clearance and to facilitate the launching of mine-clearance operations.

SLOVENIA

[Original: English]

[6 June 1994]

1. Slovenia has been facing the problem of mines and other unexploded devices since the First World War: 8,000 kilograms of unexploded cannon grenades have been found yearly in the area of the Soca/isonzo front.

2. The number of unexploded mines and other devices from the Second World War and from the war for the independence of Slovenia (June-July 1991) is relatively smaller.

3. During the war in 1991, the Yugoslav army laid minefields around most of the military edifices, as well as in other areas of Slovenia. The unexploded devices were in larger part cleared in 1992 by the Slovene Civil Defence and the Slovene Army.

4. Safety measures with regard to mines and other unexploded devices in Slovenia have been implemented in the framework of the Civil Defence of the Republic of Slovenia. Eight units of the Civil Defence, consisting of 130 troops altogether, have been equipped for that purpose. Special emphasis is paid to the training and educating of the troops.

5. Considerable experience has been gained in the course of the operations for mine clearance. Fully aware of the importance of strengthening the international cooperation regarding mine-clearance activities, Slovenia continues to be interested in the exchange of experience with other Member States. Slovenia believes that it is important to strengthen the role of the United Nations in the efforts for effective mine clearance and is ready to cooperate in these efforts.

/...

SRI LANKA

[Original: English]

[10 August 1994]

The Government of Sri Lanka supports the establishment of a trust fund to finance information and training programmes relating to mine clearance and to facilitate the launching of mine-clearance operations. The Government of Sri Lanka also shares the view that the fund should be endowed by means of contributions from mine-exporting countries and voluntary contributions by Member States.

SWEDEN

[Original: English]

[3 August 1994]

1. The presence of millions of land-mines, which predominantly affects the civilian population by causing death, injuries and the devastation of large areas of land, can never be tolerated. While the quantity of laid land-mines is ever increasing, mine clearance is conducted at an unacceptably low level.
2. Mine-clearance activities have to increase substantially but the problem must also be tackled in other ways. It is thus important to address the legality of the use of land-mines. The 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects and its Protocol on land-mines must be strengthened and, in that context, the forthcoming Review Conference on the Convention is of utmost importance. An international ban on anti-personnel land-mines is the only real solution to the humanitarian problems caused by the use of these mines.
3. Not only States affected by the presence of land-mines but also the whole international community must be involved in restoring mined areas by rendering technical assistance, international funding of de-mining activities and strengthening of the coordination of mine-clearance activities.
4. Approximately \$10 million has been allocated by the Government of Sweden to de-mining operations, mainly in Afghanistan, Cambodia and Mozambique. Sweden is prepared to continue to support de-mining activities by providing cash contributions to international programmes. A limited number of national experts can be engaged in de-mining operations, to give technical advice and training on de-mining activities.
5. Further research is essential, in order to develop new detection and clearance methods, which are needed for increasing the efficiency of de-mining. The Government of Sweden has recently decided to support the development of a mechanical de-mining vehicle, financed from the development cooperation budget. Continuous efforts are being made at the National Defence Research Establishment

/...

(FOA) to develop technology for mine clearance. Research on mine clearance is an area that profits from international cooperation. The Swedish and German Ministries of Defence are jointly preparing a five-year programme in this field. This research is focusing on ground and air surveillance methods aiming at locating and clearing land-mines. In June this year, FOA hosted an international workshop of technical experts on ordnance recovery and disposal in the framework of international operations.

6. The importance of coordination of mine-clearance operations within the United Nations system has to be underlined and a United Nations focal point should be created. With the exception of mine-clearance operations in connection with peace-keeping operations, this duty should lie with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs at Headquarters. The de-mining expert, newly appointed by the Secretary-General, has an important task in giving advice on these matters.

7. Sweden would favour the establishment of a permanent supervisory body under the 1980 Conventional Weapons Convention and its Protocols as a whole. Such a body would consist of States parties to the Convention and should continuously keep the operation of the Convention under review and investigate alleged violations against the Convention and, in particular, its Protocol II.

8. A global database system, containing technical data on mines and other ordnance items relevant to de-mining operations would be of great value. Such a register could also contain information on mined areas and the laid mines, and also to what extent relevant areas have been cleared of mines. Sweden is prepared to supply such a database with the relevant information available in Sweden.

UKRAINE

[Original: English]

[8 June 1994]

1. The Government of Ukraine, being one of the co-sponsors of resolution 48/7 of 19 October 1993, entitled "Assistance in mine clearance", pays significant attention to this issue.

2. Since the Second World War and up to the present, Ukrainian soil contains a great number of exploded mines and shells, which still present real danger to the people.

3. Ukraine considers it appropriate in the framework of the United Nations system to create a coordinating centre capable of unifying the efforts of the regional organizations in mine clearance, especially in providing information regarding the characteristics of different types of mines and other explosives, the specifics of their deactivation in water and on land.

4. Each interested country might wish to consider the formation of special teams (units) with the view to fulfilling the tasks of deactivation of the

/...

explosives on their territories, as well as on the territories of other countries in the framework of peace-making activities under the aegis of the United Nations.

5. The coordinating centre could provide assistance in gathering information regarding the development of new means of detection of the explosives and ways of their deactivation. It could also create a mechanism for using the above-mentioned special national de-mining units for the mine-clearing assignments on the territory of other countries at the request of the United Nations.

6. This mechanism should also provide the system of incentives and the social protection for the personnel.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

[Original: Arabic]

[4 May 1994]

1. Having considered General Assembly resolution 48/7, entitled "Assistance in mine clearance", the United Arab Emirates should like to state the following.

2. The United Arab Emirates agree that the resolution represents an encouraging initiative by the United Nations with a view to reducing the adverse consequences of the failure of certain parties to armed conflicts to abide by international law in the use of conventional and non-conventional weapons.

3. In recent times, and particularly during and following the Iran-Iraq war and the war for the liberation of Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates have thus been affected by the appearance, in large quantities, of naval mines in its territorial waters and close to the shores of the mainland and of the islands belonging to it.

4. The continued presence of naval mines and unexploded devices poses an increasing hazard to life, impedes the activities of companies operating in our territorial waters and on the islands and is a danger to international shipping.

5. In cooperation with the Border Guard and Coast Guard, the armed forces of the United Arab Emirates make great efforts to remove these mines and render them harmless in order to preserve lives and property and promote international shipping in the Arabian Gulf region.

6. The United Arab Emirates would support cooperation with the Organization in the implementation of the relevant programme through:

(a) The development and activation of a mechanism for monitoring international waters in the Gulf region in order to detect remnants of the Iran-Iraq war and the Gulf war such as mines and unexploded devices;

/...

(b) The development and improvement of devices for the detection and detonation of mines;

(c) The organization, in coordination with the United Nations, of high-level training courses for those dealing with mines and unexploded devices in order to benefit from the experience of the industrialized countries in this field;

(d) The imposition of stricter penalties on States whose naval units commit such violations in international waters or in the territorial waters of a third State;

(e) The establishment by the United Nations of a timetable for assistance in the detection, identification and rendering harmless of mines and unexploded devices in the territorial waters and on the shores of the United Arab Emirates.

III. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM BODIES WITH OBSERVER STATUS
WITH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AGENCY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

[Original: English]

[29 April 1994]

The scope of the Treaty of Tlatelolco does not cover activities related to mine clearance in humanitarian, social and economic assistance activities, hence the Agency is unable to provide information on this subject.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

[Original: English]

[20 May 1994]

This matter has not been dealt with, either on the inter-governmental or the inter-parliamentary level of the Council of Europe.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

[Original: English]

[26 May 1994]

1. As a humanitarian organization whose primary task is to bring protection and assistance to victims of armed conflicts, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is also deeply concerned with the problem of mines. Its delegates and medical teams in the field are confronted with the magnitude of

/...

the human suffering caused by these weapons, aggravated by the lack of sufficient medical expertise and infrastructure necessary for proper treatment and rehabilitation.

2. In order to examine the various aspects of the problem, namely, the legal, medical, social, economic and technical aspects, and to come up with viable proposals for remedial action, ICRC organized a symposium in Montreux (April 1993), whose report does address many of the issues mentioned in General Assembly resolution 48/7. Furthermore, ICRC organized a meeting of military experts on the utility of anti-personnel mines in Geneva (January 1994).

3. The results of that meeting, together with those of the Montreux symposium, have been incorporated in a comprehensive report that ICRC has submitted to the Group of Governmental Experts established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to prepare the Review Conference of the 1980 Convention on Conventional Weapons. This report was issued by the United Nations Secretariat as a background document for the second session of the Group of Governmental Experts (CCW/CONF.I/GE/6 of 6 May 1994).

LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES

[Original: Arabic]

[5 June 1994]

1. The League received with great interest the letter of 23 March concerning the importance of coordination of activities by all organizations and bodies at the various levels in order to correct the extremely grave situation resulting from the existence of unexploded mines in many places that have been the scene of armed conflicts, inasmuch as such mines have caused and continue to cause the death or wounding of many innocent citizens (a well-known instance is the Rabta, Tobruk area, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya).

2. Desiring to promote cooperation between our organizations and the United Nations, particularly in the humanitarian, social, economic and development fields and related activities, and in appreciation of the United Nations unremitting effort in pursuing humanitarian activities, the League cannot but support the United Nations conception of the importance and urgency of coordination of the various activities affecting human development and well-being.

3. With regard to the establishment of a voluntary trust fund, which would constitute a fundamental step in dealing with the question of mine clearance, consideration of the financial aspects of the matter first requires the formulation of a concept for an integrated programme, which would be adopted, after study and discussion, by all concerned parties, particularly those whose territories were the subject of military action during the Second World War or have been the scene of other armed conflicts and which do not have plans and maps of the areas where unexploded mines are still present.

/...

4. Since the expanded meetings on cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States include all the specialized agencies and specialized organizations of the two sides and their agendas cover all area of cooperation, in accordance with the General Assembly's resolution on cooperation, the League considers that it would be useful to prepare the appropriate file containing all the requisite data for submission to the expanded meeting next year.

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

[Original: English]

[16 May 1994]

1. Resolution AG/Res.1191 (XXII-0/92) asks the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS) to establish a fund to accept contributions and pledges from countries that wish to cooperate in mine-clearing operations in Central America. For its part, the Commission on Central American Security asked the Secretary-General to prepare a cooperation programme to clear Central American soil of the explosive devices sown in that region. Finally, as requested by the Foreign Ministers of Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala, the Secretary-General asked the Inter-American Defense Board to prepare national cooperation plans enabling him to comply with those requests.

2. The Mine-Clearance Assistance Programme began in Nicaragua with the clearance of more than 6,500 mines from the area surrounding the pylons of the Planta Centroamérica. Considering the terrain and other characteristics of the area in question, which caused considerable difficulty for the logistical support of the platoons working there, substantial headway was made in implementing the plan, with progress exceeding the targets. OAS reports CP/INF.3571/94 and Corr.1 and Add.1-4 give details of those activities and the funding thereof.

3. Preparations and procurement of material and military equipment to carry out the assistance plans in Honduras and Costa Rica were likewise initiated. The amount budgeted to implement those plans is \$1,550,434.

4. The Government of the Republic of Suriname requested of the Secretary-General the assistance of the OAS Special Mission to certify the non-existence of mines and other explosive materials, or to clear and de-mine four main areas and other possible "grey areas" where mines and explosives were to be found. In 1994, with the cooperation of the Brazilian National Army, the Mission worked with the National Army of the Republic of Suriname to establish the Mine-Clearing Programme in that country.

Mine-Clearance Assistance Programme in Central America

5. At its twenty-second session, the General Assembly asked the Secretary-General to establish a Special Fund to accept contributions and pledges from those countries that wish to cooperate in mine-clearing operations in Central America (AG/Res.1191 (XXII-0/92)).

/...

6. At the meeting of the Commission on Central American Security held in San Salvador, on 15 and 16 June 1992, the Secretary-General was asked to expand the Nicaraguan mine-removal programme to include the other Central American nations (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras). This decision was ratified by a request that was addressed to the Secretary-General by each nation's Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Secretary-General, in turn, sought the assistance of the Inter-American Defense Board in extending the mine-removal programme for Nicaragua to the rest of the Central American region pursuant to each country's own national planning. Such a programme would be implemented by each nation's army and, in the case of Costa Rica, specialized personnel.
7. Bearing in mind the request made by the Central American Governments for mine-clearing assistance, the concurrence of the Partnership for Democracy and Development in such a programme, the General Assembly resolution and the decision taken by the Commission on Central American Security, and taking into account as well the funding needs entailed in such assistance, in July 1992 the Secretary-General approached those member countries which might be in a position to cooperate in this area, as well as the observer countries of the Organization and members of the Partnership for Democracy and Development, to sound them out on the possibility of funding being made available to the Central American countries for the mine-clearing programme.
8. Affirmative responses were received from the Governments of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Peru and Uruguay, which offered to make officers from their armed forces available to direct and supervise the mine-clearing assistance operations in Nicaragua. The Governments of Guatemala and Honduras also made available officers from their armed forces.
9. Grant funds were given by the Governments of Germany, France, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and, especially, the United States. The Russian Federation provided special military equipment. The grant funds made it possible to assist the Sandinista People's Army to clear roughly 2,500 mines in the area surrounding the Central American Hydroelectric Plant and high-tension towers in the areas of Esteli, Jinotega and Sebaco. Detailed information on those operations is found in the report on the Mine-Clearance Assistance Programme in Nicaragua.
10. With regard to the Mine-Clearance Assistance Programme in Honduras, the Secretary-General forwarded the corresponding plan to its Government on 24 September 1993. In his subsequent response of 2 November 1993, the Minister for Foreign Affairs informed the Secretary General of his Government's approval of the plan. On 9 December 1993, the Secretary-General informed the Minister for Foreign Affairs that action had begun in order to secure financing for the subject activities.
11. The Mine-Clearance Plan for Honduras drawn up by the Inter-American Defense Board, which is keyed to the priorities set by the Government of Honduras, contains a technical description of operations that would be undertaken to assist in clearing explosive devices, as well as a programme budget.
12. The steps initiated by the Secretary-General to secure cooperation for the Mine-Clearance Programme in Central America pursuant to General Assembly

resolution AG/Res.1191 (XXII-0/92) require that contributions amounting to \$3,200,000 be obtained for the Special Fund established by the resolution.

13. The continuity of this major undertaking in Central America is subject to financing and special contributions made available by the Governments in 1994. Needless to say, the different types of mines buried in Central America have become a destabilizing weapon, given their potential to erode the socio-economic infrastructure of rural areas and precipitate the uprooting of human settlements, with the consequent harmful effects on peace and order in the region.
